

CLEAN SWEEP

PCU O'KANE (DDG-77) NEWSLETTER

Homeport: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
Commanding Officer: CDR David Hulse

Sponsor: Leslie Allen Berry
CLEAN SWEEP Editor: ENS Kevin Hoffman

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SUMMER 1998

WELCOME ABOARD!

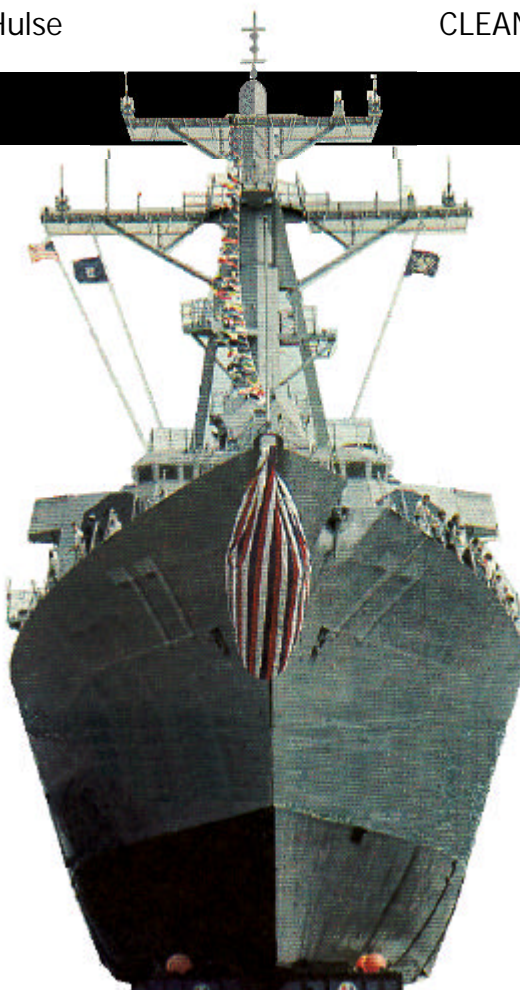
By CDR David Hulse

Dear O'KANE family,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of "Clean Sweep," our newsletter intended to keep the entire O'KANE family plugged in to our adventure. Since this is our first mailing, we have devoted a bit of space to bringing everyone up to date on our launching, our namesake – Rear Admiral Richard O'Kane, the ship's crest, and our ship's Sponsor – Mrs. Leslie A. Berry. We hope to provide you with articles and pictures in each issue that chronicle the crew's experiences and keep you in touch with your friends and loved ones aboard O'KANE.

I have now been on station here in Bath, Maine for three months, and I can feel the excitement growing as our ship and crew take shape. Bath Iron Works continues to remain on track with O'KANE's construction and fitting out, and I am looking forward to taking this magnificent warship on her first sea trials

See WELCOME, Page 2



START OF A TRADITION

By ENS Kevin Hoffman

On an extraordinarily beautiful winter afternoon, Bath Iron Works (BIW) christened and launched one of the U.S. Navy's latest warships. BIW Hull 465 was officially christened O'KANE on March 28th, 1998. A crowd of over 2500 people was on hand to witness this bit of maritime tradition and watch as O'KANE entered the water for the very first time.

The day's events began long before the sun came up. To prepare the ship for its launching, hundreds of oak wedges were hand pounded to lift a wooden cradle, built on greased skids, snug under the hull of O'KANE. The cradle would allow O'KANE to slide freely down the launching ways and into the water at high tide. Several members of O'KANE's crew, alongside the shipbuilders of BIW and members of the community, took part in the

See LAUNCHING, Page 2



O'KANE'S COAT OF ARMS: "A TRADITION OF HONOR"

The dark blue and gold on the shield represent the sea and excellence, and are the colors traditionally used by the Navy. The trident, symbol of naval power, underscores USS O'KANE's awesome combat and weapons systems which allow the ship to dominate the battle space in multi-threat environments. The stylized crosses and stars commemorate the three Navy Crosses and three Silver Stars awarded to Rear Admiral O'Kane for brilliant tactical ability and heroism displayed during war patrols as Executive Officer of USS WAHOO and Commanding Officer of USS TANG.

On the crest, the dolphins pay tribute to Rear Admiral O'Kane's career as a submariner. The reversed star represents the medal of honor awarded to O'Kane for his extraordinary actions during his last war patrol. Operating independently in enemy-controlled waters during that patrol, O'Kane decimated two large and heavily protected convoys before TANG went down. The flaming naval sword rising from the waves highlights the aggressive naval combat action displayed by O'Kane and his crews on every patrol. Red is emblematic of valor and sacrifice, underscoring Rear Admiral O'Kane's time as a prisoner of war.

SPONSOR'S LETTER

By Leslie Allen Berry

Dear Commander Hulse and Crew of the O'KANE:

Thank you for your frequent reports on the progress of our great ship. Although months have passed, it seems only yesterday that we gathered at the christening, beneath the bow of the mighty O'KANE, to start her on her journey. The pride I felt that day still swells, and I smile to know how pleased my grandfather, Richard H. O'Kane, would have been. The magnificent ship in all its splendor would have made his blue eyes sparkle beneath those heavy brows. The complimentary words of dignitaries would have touched sacred memories in his mind. But most of all, the sight of O'KANE's future crew, standing proud, ambitions high, would have swelled his heart with joy. He was a man of tradition, a man of honor, but what pleased him most was the spirit of co-operation among his men. Each crewman, although surely an individual, became part of a team, a well-oiled machine, under my grandfather's guidance; and it was that co-operative spirit that earned them all such commendations. It was his crew he thanked with each success, and his crew he honored in the end. Truly, the O'KANE is named for a magnificent man, a real-life hero; and yet, I know, he would say each member of his crew shares that honor. May it be so with you, the first crew of the AEGIS Guided Missile Destroyer O'KANE, to stand side by side with honor and pride. May all your loved ones share that pride in each of you and the important work you do.

You are each carrying on a part of this heroic legacy. On behalf of all of my family, thank you for your hard work and dedication.

With great respect and gratitude,

Leslie Allen Berry
Sponsor DDG 77



Ship's Sponsor, Leslie Allen Berry, christens the O'KANE.

WELCOME, from Page 1

in late March of next year. As the crew reports aboard in San Diego (where our Pre-Commissioning Detachment is located) and in Bath, I continue to be impressed and thankful for the confident professionals streaming in the front door. In my sixteen years of service to date, I have not had the pleasure of serving with such a uniformly enthusiastic and dedicated team; working together, I am confident that we will easily step through the countless tests, inspections, and certifications that make up the commissioning process.

In addition to building a new Aegis destroyer, we are building the leaders and technicians that will ensure success for O'KANE (and the Navy) in the future. I have told each crew member that I take great interest in their professional development and great pleasure in their accomplishments; there are few benefits of my job that surpass the opportunity to present promotions, awards, and warfare qualifications, or recognize other personal milestones. Regardless of what lies beyond this tour aboard O'KANE, my goal is to see every Sailor realize their potential and go for their own "brass ring."

As the O'KANE family continues to grow in the coming months, we will look for additional ways to stay in touch with you - - our Precom Detachment Ombudsman, Mrs. Susan Hill, will be getting a "careline" soon and we are even working on a web page! As for now, I hope this first issue of Clean Sweep is a "keeper." Enjoy!

David C. Hulse
CDR USN

LAUNCHING, from Page 1

morning's wedge driving, making O'KANE ready for the afternoon's events.

Bright sun and clear skies brought unseasonably high temperatures to Maine, making the day a perfect start for this warm weather bound ship. The president of BIW, Allan C. Cameron opened the ceremony with a brief history of the Bath Iron Works Corporation and a look into its future. Maine's congressional delegation also took part in the ceremony, led by the Principal Speaker, Congressman Tom Allen.

As the time for the launch drew near, the ship's sponsor, Leslie Allen Berry, granddaughter of Rear Admiral O'Kane, gave a short speech. According to the christening tradition, the spirit of the sponsor is said to enter the hull and "bring the ship to life." Leslie Allen Berry, smashing a red, white and blue bottle of champagne against the hull, christened our ship O'KANE. The pull of one last lever under the ship set her free from her restraints. Amidst a hail of confetti, the giant ship slid silently and gracefully into the cold waters of the Kennebec River, bringing the christening ceremony to a close.

The long day ended in celebration. Bath Iron Works hosted a reception at the Atrium Hotel in Brunswick, Maine, with nearly 1000 people in attendance. During the reception, the Ship's Sponsor and Matron of Honor, Mrs. Ernestine O'Kane, widow of RADM O'Kane, and CDR David Hulse, Commanding Officer of the O'KANE, delivered speeches. The reception allowed everyone to celebrate BIW's launching of its sixteenth Arleigh Burke Class Aegis Destroyer and to honor the man for whom it was named.

BIOGRAPHIES

Rear Admiral Richard H. O'Kane



Born in Dover, New Hampshire on February 2, 1911, Rear Admiral O'Kane was commissioned in the United States Navy upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy in 1934. As an Ensign, O'Kane served on USS CHESTER and USS PRUITT before reporting for instruction in submarines at the Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut, in January 1938. After completing his training, Rear Admiral O'Kane served on the USS ARGONAUT until 1942, when he reported for duty as Executive Officer of USS WAHOO. O'Kane was awarded the Silver Star Medal with two Gold Stars and a Letter of Commendation from the Secretary of the Navy for his outstanding service on WAHOO. In August 1943, O'Kane returned to Mare Island Naval Yard where he assumed command of USS TANG upon her commissioning on October 15, 1943. Under Commander O'Kane, TANG went on five war patrols, sinking a total of 31 ships and damaging two other ships, a record still unsurpassed by any American submarine. During its fifth and final war patrol, TANG sank 13 enemy ships. In what was to be her final battle, TANG encountered a heavily escorted enemy convoy. Engaged in a fierce surface battle, Commander O'Kane directed TANG to fire her last two torpedoes at a crippled transport ship. The first torpedo ran straight and true, striking its target. The second torpedo was faulty and turned almost immediately, heading directly for TANG. Ordering emergency speed, TANG tried to pull out of its path, but it struck the submarine in the stern, causing a violent explosion. Of the entire crew, only nine were picked up by a Japanese destroyer escort eight hours later. Commander O'Kane and the others from TANG were imprisoned on Formosa. O'Kane was later transferred to a secret prison camp near Tokyo and was listed as "missing-in-action" until the liberation of the camp two weeks after V-J Day. Upon his release, O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his exemplary service on TANG on March 27, 1947. Rear Admiral O'Kane's other military decorations

include the Navy Cross with two Gold Stars, the Legion of Merit with Combat "V", the Purple Heart, the Commendation Ribbon, and the Prisoner of War Medal. Rear Admiral O'Kane passed away in February 1994. He is survived by his wife, Ernestine, two children, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

MATRON OF HONOR

Mrs. Richard O'Kane

Ernestine Groves O'Kane grew up in Durham, New Hampshire, next door to the man she would later marry, Richard H. O'Kane. When she was nine, her father, who was a college professor, moved the family south where she completed her education. Mrs. O'Kane attended William & Mary College and graduated from the University of North Carolina. Upon graduation she began working for the Agricultural Administration. At that time, all United States Naval Academy graduates had to wait two years after graduation before they were allowed to marry. In 1936, after the designated waiting period and many years spent apart, Ernestine and Richard became engaged and were married.

With the exception of the years during World War II, Mrs. O'Kane truly enjoyed being a Navy wife. She and Rear Admiral O'Kane had wonderful friends and lived in many exciting places. Upon his retirement from the Navy, Rear Admiral and Mrs. O'Kane spent time traveling, pursuing their hobbies and enjoying their children, Marsha and James, their four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Mrs. O'Kane was and continues to be devoted to our country's Navy.

In July 1951, Mrs. O'Kane was thrilled to christen the submarine TANG (SS-563). Today, she is proud to serve as Matron of Honor for the ship built to honor her husband, knowing the O'KANE will ride the world's seas and protect our country.

OUR SPONSOR

Leslie Allen Berry

Leslie Allen Berry is the granddaughter of Richard and Ernestine O'Kane, and the daughter of Marsha O'Kane Allen and Cal Allen. She was born in San Francisco, California, on November 17, 1961, and she and her brother, Brant, were raised in Northern California's Marin County. Leslie graduated from U.C. Davis in 1983 with degrees in Zoology and English. In 1985, after enjoying a brief career in wild life research, Leslie returned to Davis to marry Bruce Willam Berry. She continued her work with animals as Administrative Assistant for the Yolo County S.P.C.A., and then as owner-operator of Trinity Llama Company, a wilderness backcountry llama-trekking business. In addition to running her business, Leslie currently teaches an animal-handling lab for U.C. Davis' School of Veterinary Medicine. Recently she has returned to the elementary classroom, this time as a teacher for the Explorit! Science Center. A lifetime love of art keeps Leslie involved in creative classes ranging from simple drawing and painting to gourd carving and photography, balancing the more structured science side of her life.

Leslie and Bruce reside in Davis with their three children: Brandon (10), Brett (9), and Whitney (6). Leslie enjoys water sports, running, backpacking, drawing and photography, but most of all, spending time with her active family.



THE CMC CONNECTION

By SHCM(SW) John J. Hill III
Command Master Chief



Greetings from beautiful sunny San Diego! A hearty **“WELCOME ABOARD”** to all O’KANE’s family and friends. Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Master Chief Ship’s Serviceman (Surface Warfare) John J. Hill III, O’KANE’s Command Master Chief. The Command Master Chief is the senior enlisted crewmember and the Commanding Officer’s advisor for enlisted matters. I have 23 years Naval service and O’KANE is my third Command Master Chief assignment. My previous tours were as Command Master Chief for the Navy Exchange Service Command, Virginia Beach, Virginia, from September 1995 to June 1998; prior to that I served as the Command Master Chief for the Navy Exchange Service Center, San Diego, CA, from June 1994 to August 1995. Any sea duty assignment can be exciting, however being assigned to a precommissioning duty is a unique and exciting experience. Bringing O’KANE to “LIFE” can be the most rewarding moment that each Sailor will remember for his or her life. While the O’KANE is in the precommissioning status, the primary duty of the crew is to train to operate and defend the ship to their fullest capabilities, setting the highest of standards. It is not an easy task that has been set before us, but one that will command endurance, perseverance and strength. Being a **PLANKOWNER** carries an enormous responsibility, one I’m sure that each of us is capable of undertaking. Much will be asked of our crew and families in the months to come. The O’KANE’s work tempo will increase as possession of the ship, move aboard, and sail-away approach. We set the trend that will be remembered - traditions for future crews to emulate. As we embark on this new journey we must take with us and preserve the memory of Admiral O’Kane, one of **HONOR, PRIDE, AND DISTINCTION**.

Before closing I’d like to take this opportunity to congratulate our newly selected Chief Petty Officers: CTM1 Donald Wilson, who is at the PCU Bath, Maine, and DS1(SW) Michael Manning, reporting to us from the USS LEWIS B. PULLER (FFG 23). Our selectees will pin their anchors on the 16 September 1998. Once again congratulations to you and your families. The tradition of success has begun. **Keep on Charging ahead!!!**

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FLEET WEEK '98 IN SAN DIEGO

By ET2(SW) George Griffin

Fleet Week is a week set aside to honor the long-standing relationship between the community and the military. It is also a time to celebrate the spirit and sacrifice made by the men and women of the military. On Thursday, August 13, in celebration of Fleet Week, the public was treated to a fine showing of the U.S. Navy’s presence in San Diego. Everyone enjoyed the Parade of Ships, featuring many ships from the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard. A Japanese destroyer even made the long Trans-Pacific voyage to participate. Also featured were demonstrations involving Navy SEALs, the Navy LeapFrog parachute team, and Coast Guard Search and Rescue. A S-3 Viking, AV-8B Harrier, and the Blue Angels represented Naval Aviation during the celebration. Even though O’KANE herself will not be able to participate in Fleet Week for another year, several members of her crew were on hand for the day’s festivities. These crew members of PCU O’KANE were involved in a Command Ball Cap and Patch sale on San Diego’s Broadway Pier. Representing the O’KANE were SHCM(SW) John J. Hill III, ENS Todd Hutchison, SH2 Lorenzo Tingson, and ET2(SW) George Griffin. Bravo Zulu for their time and effort in raising \$478.00 for the MWR fund.

O’KANE’S DONUT & BAGEL SHOP IS OPEN FOR BREAKFAST!

By RM2 Russell Thompson

Good morning spouses, family members, and crew! First of all, I would like to welcome you to the PCU O’KANE family. My name is Radioman Second Class Russell Thompson and I am responsible for the PCU O’KANE Donut and Bagel Shop, which was officially opened on July 20th, 1998.

The Donut and Bagel Shop was established by several previous Pre-Commissioning Units to help support their Morale, Welfare, and Recreation funds. The menu is not just limited to donuts, bagels, and muffins. We also have a healthy variety of fruit and yogurt. The Donut and Bagel Shop is kept running by our crewmembers. When you are in Bath, Maine, and need a little something one morning, come by and sample our delicious donuts, bagels, or fresh fruits. We look forward to seeing you at the PCU O’KANE Donut and Bagel Shop!

PRECOM: A TALE OF TWO CITIES

BATH, Maine

THE PRECOMMISSIONING UNIT

By CWO2 Scott Simms

Greetings from the Pre Commissioning Unit in down-east Maine, the land of “lobstah,” black flies, wicked bad weather, “cahs,” mosquitoes, and the huge Maine Coon Cat.

We have grown to a crew of twenty-one this past week and some of us have been here long enough to understand some of the local jargon: “Heyah. It’s not fah donchaknow. From heyuh, just take a right on the first rod and pahk in the second dooryahd past the fahm gahden on the left. Beeno stahts at eight. Should be a wicked good time.”

When we are not learning the finer subtleties of “Mainespeak” from the friendly locals, we are busy learning about the O’KANE and offering suggestions to make her a better (bettah?) ship. With daily visits to O’KANE, we continue to develop training plans, write instructions, work with our Navy and civilian counterparts on lessons learned, learn our jobs, and do everything else we can to ease the crew transition to a brand new ship and make O’KANE the best ship possible.

Above and beyond our normal jobs, some of us are voluntarily tackling the extra jobs to make things better for everyone: GM2 Tab Robinson ensures we are taking full advantage of the local ship familiarization courses in his role as the PCU Training Officer. DC1 Saul Anthony and BMC(SW) Julio Diaz are whipping us into shape with a rigorous physical fitness program. RM2 Russell Thompson and RM2 Jeanne Terry, besides building a radio shack, are running a great breakfast service to generate money for O’KANE’s Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) fund.

CTMC (Select) Donald Wilson, when he is not participating in CPO selectee training or computer-related matters, is developing an O’KANE Habitat for Humanity program in the local community. ETC Lorraine Schwager motivates us toward team athletics and community service ventures. GSE1 Benito Casteneda is the resident expert on how to get virtually anything done in the local area – besides being here the longest, he and his family suffered through the January ice storm we saw on the news.

SK1 Michael Chavez, DC1 Stroehlein, FC1 Gary Shaw and the rest of the First Class Mess are ensuring our families get to know one another by sponsoring and organizing monthly picnics: the first one held on August 18 was a tremendous success.

The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well here at the PCU as we strive to make things better not only for the O’Kane family, but our neighbors in the local community as well. Until next time, ...

SAN DIEGO, California

THE PRECOMMISSIONING DETACHMENT

By RMSA James Owsley

At the PCD, all hands work hard to overcome the rigors of bringing a brand new warship on-line. Due to the fact that I am a member of the maiden crew, there will be no one I can turn to for answers on how the ship will react in any given situation. It is by knowing this that life is a non-stop training evolution to prepare for the multitude of possibilities. As a member of the crew I must be able to react swiftly and confidently to ensure the ship performs to her potential.

The main purpose of the PCD, for junior and senior sailors alike, is training. For many of the young sailors, such as my self, this is their first ship. The training we receive as junior sailors is ensuring a good foundation of knowledge to build upon. We can apply this knowledge to perform day to day duties, as well as combat fire, flooding, or any other casualty which might arise. In conjunction with classroom time, we receive hands-on training aboard other ships in preparation for life at sea. This also gives us the opportunity to test our sea legs and the effectiveness of Dramamine. For senior personnel, work at the PCD refreshes previous training and allows them to attend the Navy’s latest courses. The PCD also provides us with a chance to meet some of our new shipmates, and learn to work as a team.

Getting a chance to know one’s shipmates early on will help us to develop positive working relationships, while maintaining the highest level of professionalism possible. Every day we take more steps toward this goal at the PCD. Command functions are also organized giving one the chance to enjoy area events, like taking in a Padres baseball game, with our new shipmates.

When not in the class room environment or underway as a ship rider, we spend time in the office spaces that the PCD occupies. At the PCD, the day begins at 0700 with Officer’s Call. Quarters follows immediately afterward. Anyone working at the PCD for the remainder of the day is tasked by GSM2 Edward Smith with any of a variety of jobs. These jobs may include setting up office spaces, organizing training, maintaining office spaces, as well as other areas of our building. Physical Training is held by the command on Monday and Wednesday, and damage control training is held on Tuesday and Thursday. At day’s end, we do a final clean up known as “SWEEPERS”. This is immediately followed by my favorite part of the day, LIBERTY CALL!

Three PCD O’KANE sailors, RMSN Vernon Hyke, RMSA Ryan Barrentine, and HTFR Brady Raber, are currently riding the USS PAUL HAMILTON (DDG-60) as she goes on deployment. Wish them, and all of us here at the PCD, good luck, as we make our way towards our goal of bringing O’KANE to life.



O'KANE's

Launch

March 28th, 1998





at PCU O'KANE's Command Picnic

burgers and hotdogs

BIW Worker of the Week



Habitat For Humanity



CONTINUING THE TRADITION

Rear Admiral Richard O’Kane and his crews aboard USS TANG and USS WAHOO set a long-standing tradition of naval excellence. The crewmembers of PCU O’KANE continue to uphold this tradition today. The following crewmembers have achieved notable milestones in their careers:

PROMOTED:

LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE

LTJG John Hughes
LTJG Bryce Minamyer
LTJG Laura Stout

PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS

GSE1(SW) Benito Castaneda
GSM1(SW) James Mebane

PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS

GSE2 John Campbell

PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS

GSM3 I.N. Espinosa
GSE3 Marco Portillo
GSM3 Gerald Sistros
GSM3 Paul Szewczyk

SELECTED FOR ADVANCEMENT:

COMMANDER

LCDR Steven Alkov

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER

LT John Banigan
LT Tom Druggan

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER

DS1(SW) Michael Manning
CTM1 Donald Wilson

REENLISTMENT:

ET3 William Gaskins
DC1 Noel Gaon

The following crewmembers were recognized for their outstanding performances and achievements on previous tours:

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

DCC(SW) James Marshall
GMC(SW) Joseph Richards
ETC(SW) Lorraine Schwager
FCC(SW) Kurt Priessler
LT Angelo Vigil
GMC(SW) Peter Weir
CTM1 Donald Wilson

DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

RMC(SW) Richard Brown

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

MS1 Roger Ibale
EM1(SW) Wilson Wong

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

GSE3 Robert Deluca
GSM3 Paul Szewczyk
EN1 (SW) Timothy Wells



CDR Hulse awards LT Vigil



LCDR Alkov congratulates GSE3 Szewczyk



DC1 Gaon reenlists

LAUNCHINGS

Congratulations to RM1 Ken McAlister and his wife Tina on the birth of their son Quinton Xavier on 24 May 98. Quinton weighed 4 lbs 2 oz, and was 17 inches long. This is the McAlister’s third child. Best wishes and congratulations.

Congratulations to GSE3 Ron Martinez and his wife Becky on the birth of their son Taylen on 8 July 98. Taylen weighed 7 lbs 8 oz, and was 19.2 inches long. Best wishes to the Martinez family, and congratulations.

FROM THE XO'S DESK

By Steven L. Alkov
Executive Officer

Welcome to the O'KANE and the premier of our family news gram "CLEAN SWEEP," First, let me introduce myself; my name is LCDR Steve Alkov and I am Executive Officer of PCU O'KANE (DDG 77), but for now I answer mainly to XO. My wife Susan and I have just returned from the commissioning of USS DECATUR (DDG 73), and in a little over a year from now it will be our turn to bring O'KANE to life in Hawaii. The road ahead will be long and laborious coupled with crewmembers scattered all over the country from Maine to California, this family gram will allow family and friends of crewmembers to keep track of where we are in the building process.

Along with our editor, ENS Kevin Hoffman, we have tried to develop a newsletter that describes "where we have been," "where we are" and "where we are going". "Where we have been" is covered with biographies on our namesake, Matron of Honor and Sponsor, an article of the launching ceremony for all that couldn't attend plus recognition for crewmembers who have achieved noteworthy accomplishments. "Where we are" is discussed by articles relative to happenings at the PCU, PCD, and tidbits about the crew. "Where we are going" is covered in our "Countdown to Paradise" article which details some items of importance for our move to Hawaii and letters from the CO, CMC, and myself on variety of topics.

I know that I don't have the answer to everyone's concerns regarding the upcoming year, but feel free to direct any questions to myself or the Command Master Chief, SHCM(SW) John Hill. I hope you enjoy the first issue of "CLEAN SWEEP" and find it informative. Once again, welcome to the O'KANE.

AT THE LAUNCHING...



Mrs. Ernestine O'Kane, Matron of Honor, and
Leslie Allen Berry, Ship's Sponsor.



Stern-view of O'KANE awaiting launch.

COUNTDOWN TO PARADISE

We kicked off our countdown to paradise (aka the big move to Hawaii) on August 24th with a very informative spouses' meeting held in San Diego at the Detachment. CO, XO, and CMC led the meeting, providing answers to many questions regarding the events in the next year. This article will deal with the move to Hawaii only, in an effort to keep all advised of the situation with regards to housing, household goods, pets and vehicles. In future articles we will go more in depth on each topic but for now just the basics.

Housing – the PCU has mailed the first batch of housing application forms to Hawaii and we are waiting for a positive response before sending out more from the detachment. Non-government housing on Oahu is extremely expensive and the command will require everyone taking dependents to Hawaii to sign up for housing. You do not have to accept housing once you arrive but at least everyone will have arranged a place for their dependents to live.

Pets – Pets are difficult to move to Hawaii, because of the anti-rabies ordinances on the islands. The quarantine policy is 120 days, but can be reduced to 30 days only if you follow specific guidance. To receive a package detailing all of this information call Animal Quarantine Station at (808) 483-7151 and within a week they will mail you all of the details.

Household Goods – Once we are in receipt of the homeport letter expected in March 1999, personnel will be authorized to begin shipment of HHG. Shipment is arranged just like any move but expect your shipment to take 30 days to arrive if from the West coast and 60 days from the East coast. Temporary Living Allowance (TLA) is provided to cover the cost of staying in a hotel in Hawaii while waiting for your HHG shipment to arrive.

Vehicles – The government only pays to ship one POV to Hawaii.

If you desire more information, located at the PCU, PCD and every Family Service Center is a Hawaii Site Survey which goes into greater detail on each topic. Additionally, a good website for this information is www.hawaii.navy.mil/housing. By November the O'KANE homepage will be up and running and will include detailed information on our move plus links to Hawaii information websites. If you have any questions about the Hawaii move feel free to contact LTJG Ian Vale Cruz at the PCD or FCC(SW) Kurt Priessler at the PCU.



O'KANE enters the water for the first time.

O'KANE On the Ways



SUPPLY DEPARTMENT READY TO SERVE!

By LT Angelo Vigil
Supply Officer

O'KANE's Supply Department is coming together and looking forward to outfitting the ship. We are headed by LT Angelo Vigil, whose last duty station was in Japan. Also onboard is SK1 Mike Chavez, who reported from the Naval Recruiting District in Kansas City, Missouri. The newest arrival to the detachment in Bath is SKC(SW) Russell Williams, who came all the way from Naples, Italy. Other members of supply department have reported to the Precomm detachment in San Diego including MS1 Roger Ibale, SH1 Tamara Johnson, and SH2 Lorenzo Tingson. Everyone is excited about the unique and outstanding opportunity to serve the crew of USS O'KANE.

Although we are just starting up O'KANE's Auxiliary Retail Outlet (Ship's Store), we do have a small number of items available now. Please see the price list below.

A plethora of new items have been ordered and are enroute including "PLANKOWNER" ball caps, belt buckles, mugs, T-shirts, and O'KANE jackets. If there is any item that you would like to see carried, please feel free to let the Supply Officer know. We exist to serve the crew!



SHIP STORE PRICE LIST

O'KANE PATCH.....\$3.00

O'KANE BALLCAP WITH
SHIP SILHOUETTE.....\$8.00

O'KANE BALLCAP WITH
SHIP'S CREST (VERY NICE).....\$9.00

O'KANE COMMANDER BALLCAP.....\$10.00

O'KANE ADMIRAL BALLCAP.....\$11.00

Please send any requests for items to:

SALES OFFICER
PCU O'KANE (DDG-77)
590 WASHINGTON ST
BATH, ME 04530-1967

* Please include an additional \$3 for shipping cost and make money orders payable to: ARO PCU O'KANE (DDG-77)

POINTS OF CONTACT

PCD O'KANE (SAN DIEGO)
DETACHMENT ADMIN: (619) 556-9596
OIC: 556-9318
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF: 556-9333

PCU O'KANE (BATH)
UNIT ADMIN: (207) 442-5098
EXECUTIVE OFFICER: 442-5057



PCU O'KANE (DDG-77)
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BATH, ME 04530-1970

